Press release

Warmest October on record confirmed

1 November 2001

Weather's worst-kept secret was confirmed today when Met Office records revealed that the mean Central England Temperature (CET) for October was 13.3 °C. This makes October 2001 the warmest on record, the previous warmest being October 1969 when the mean CET was 13.0 °C.

It was also a wet October. Averaged across England and Wales, there were 138 mm of rain this October which is 59% more than the 87 mm expected in a normal October. However, October last year was wetter still with 188 mm of rain.

November will be getting off to a different start. Mike Dutton, Chief Forecaster at the Met Office said: "There will be some rain over northern parts of the UK. Further south, drier and quieter weather is likely but it will be noticeably colder with a ground frost in many places over the next few nights."

Notes:

1. The Central England Temperature Series is thought to be the longest weather record in the world. The records began in 1659.

2. The England and Wales Rainfall Series dates back to 1766.

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

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